

## HEARING THE SOUND OF DANGER

### **Outline of Need:**

The Village of Oakdale, located in rural northeast Nebraska, entrusted their lives to an emergency siren that did not function in any type of wet weather. Even during the warm and dry months, the siren was not reliable. Nails had to be manually inserted into the siren for activation when a tornado or fire threatened. Not only did this action put lives at risk, but quite often the outcome was the siren not sounding off. Finishing the list of concerns was the fact that siren repair parts were no longer available.

### **How Rural Development Helped:**

USDA Rural Development added \$12,500 in Community Facilities grant funds to the Village's \$4,525 contribution to purchase a new pole and rotating early warning system. Raising the siren by use of the pole combined with the rotating system allowed for a greater span of alert coverage.

***"We are happy, proud and thankful for the USDA Rural Development funding and the results of a new early warning system," stated Oakdale Village Board Chairperson, Charles Neyens.***

### **The Results:**

The security level for the 345 rural residents of the Village has risen. The installation of a working and reliable early warning system offers Oakdale residents a more safe and sound place to live. Not only does the siren provide advanced warning of tornadoes, but it allows the fire department to be better able to protect the public with needed fire protection. In fact, since the siren activation, no homes have been lost to fire.

(April 2004)



Village of Oakdale's new siren.



Pictured above with new siren:  
Jim Johnson, Village Maintenance  
and Charles Neyens, Village Chairperson  
who contacted USDA Rural Development  
regarding the new early warning system.

